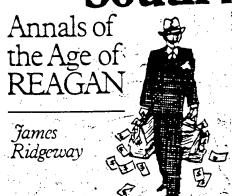
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VILLAGE VOICE 28 May 1985



WASHINGTON-Buttressed by fresh scientific information that adds to the evidence South Africa and Israel explodwill attach an amendment to the sanctions bill now pending in the House to formally break off nuclear trade between the two nations.

several American companies, including ord, having sighted 41 previous nuclear that knowledge could have destroyed the Bechtel, Westinghouse, and General Dynamics. Secretary of Defense Weinberger satellite had been calibrated one week president to cut off military aid, and hurt and Secretary of State Shultz, of course, prior to the explosion.

come from Bechtel.

its way to pretend it doesn't know Pre- in consort with Israel, had exploded a thought that revealing the existence of a toria has the bomb, there has never been nuclear device. They included the U.S. South African bomb and the ensuing conany secret about South Africa's nuclear Naval Research Laboratory [NRL], frontation could scuttle chances for a capabilities and the U.S. role in develop- which conducted the most comprehen- peaceful Zimbabwe independence settleing them. South Africa obtained its nu- sive examination; the Defense Intelli- ment. Another foreign policy setback clear research reactor directly from the gence Agency, the Los Alamos Scientific amid the Iranian hostage crisis would U.S. Its Westinghouse-designed nuclear Laboratory, as well as individuals in the have been too much for Carter to conpower reactor was purchased from the departments of State and Energy. The template. Such a revelation would have French. A pilot uranium-enrichment CIA said South Africa and Israel were plant that employs American-made com- responsible for the test. puters was obtained from West Germany. Both reactors produce plutonium as a by- ed the "zoo" theory. That's jargon for a product, and the research reactor is run phenomena which can't be explained. has refused to sign the Nuclear Non-Pro-bility that this signal was of nuclear ori-liferation Treaty or to submit its enrich- gin," the report said, "the panel considers Atomic Energy Board, was straightfor- satellite." ward in 1976 when he said, "We can ascribe our degree of advancement [in nu- Vela reading to begin its search for radioclear technology] today in large measure activity, more than enough time for the to the training and assistance so willingly fallout to be dissipated by rainfall. provided by the United States."

from the U.S.

bomb was raised in the summer of 1977 when the Soviets told the Carter administration its satellite photographs indicated South Africa was getting ready to detonate a nuclear device in the Kalahari desert. U.S. data subsequently confirmed complied.

Force Vela satellite detected a double age. He said it was the first time he had flash of light, which can be the signal of a ever detected iodine in the thyroids of nuclear explosion, in the South Atlantic- sheep. Indian Ocean area. Soon after the Vela figure out what happened. It was hard to Victoria or Tasmania in Australia. discount the Vela data since the satellite

But not the Ruina panel, which adoptment plant to any international safe- it more likely that the signal was one of guards against weapons development, the zoo events, possibly a consequence of A. I. Roux, president of South Africa's the impact of a small meteoroid on the

The U.S. waited three weeks after the

Not only can South Africa make nucle-documents obtained through a Freedom eration treaty and accept International ar weapons, it has ample capacity to de- of Information request by the Washing- Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, the liver them: from Mirage III jets, pur- ton Office on Africa, a public interest Reagan government granted an export lichased from the French; its Bucaneer or group, contain detailed data of the blast. cense to Control Data Corporation to sell Canberra bombers, obtained from the Possibly the most significant evidence is South Africa's Center of Industrial and British; via Israeli-designed Jericho mis- contained in what must have been a most Scientific Research an advanced comput-

siles, and by 155mm howitzers bought unwelcome letter to Dr. Alan Berman, NRL's research director, from a Universi-Suspicion that South Africa had the ty of Tennessee professor who happened to be examining sheep thyroids in Australia soon after the blast. Dr. L. Van Middlesworth wrote Dr. Berman in September 1980 that he had routinely examined cattle and sheep tissues for such elements for 25 years, and that his samthe Soviet photos. The western nations ple of sheep thyroids for November 12 told South Africa not to explode the and 13, 1979, contained what he thought bomb, and apparently South Africa were unusually high levels of radioactive iodine, which his measurements set at six On September 22, 1979, the U.S. Air times the standard deviation above aver-

An analysis of the weather patterns, ed a nuclear device in September 1979, sighting Jimmy Carter's science adviser including cloud trajectory, indicated ra-Michigan congressman John Conyers Dr. Frank Press impaneled a group of dioactive fallout could have been carried scientists led by Jack Ruina of MIT to from the area of the flash and dropped on

Why did the Carter administration was designed specifically to detect nucle- cover up the South African blast? Had it This legislation would adversely affect ar weapons tests and had a perfect rec- been known that Israel had the bomb, explosions in 15 years of operation. The Camp David accords, put pressure on the Carter in getting Jewish votes during his Various government agencies eventual- heated primary campaign against Sena-Even though the U.S. has gone out of ly concluded that South Africa, probably tor Edward Kennedy. Carter may have shown the big holes in non proliferation policy, and exposed decades of American assistance to both Israel and South Africa in obtaining the bomb. And at the very least it would have made Carter look silly on weapons-grade uranium. South Africa "Although we cannot rule out the possi- since the Vela data became known at the same time that a South African delegation landed in Washington to discuss the Antarctica treaty. The treaty prohibits testing military weapons and nuclear explosives in Antarctica. The South African blast emanated from Antarctica or close

> Cordial relations between the U.S. and South Africa continue in the nuclear arena. Despite South Africa's steadfast re-Now there's new information. NRL fusal to adhere to the nuclear non prolif-

> > CONTINUED

er to model nuclear explosions. Two U.S. companies—Edlow International and SWOCO—act as brokers in the sale of enriched uranium fuel for South African reactors. Nuclear technicians go back and forth between the U.S. and South Africa, and the U.S. actually has trained South African technicians. In the past South Africa has sent raw uranium to the U.S. to be enriched and returned.

As for the black resistance within South Africa, Prime Minister Botha must have been thinking about the blast on September 25, 1979, three days after it went off, when, speaking in Cape Town, he said South Africa might possess a secret weapon to counter "terrorism." "If there are people who are thinking of doing something else," he declared, "I suggest they think twice about it. They might find out we have military weapons they do not know about."